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Indpls. News 8/17/11

Bas-Relief of Riley is Artist's Triumph

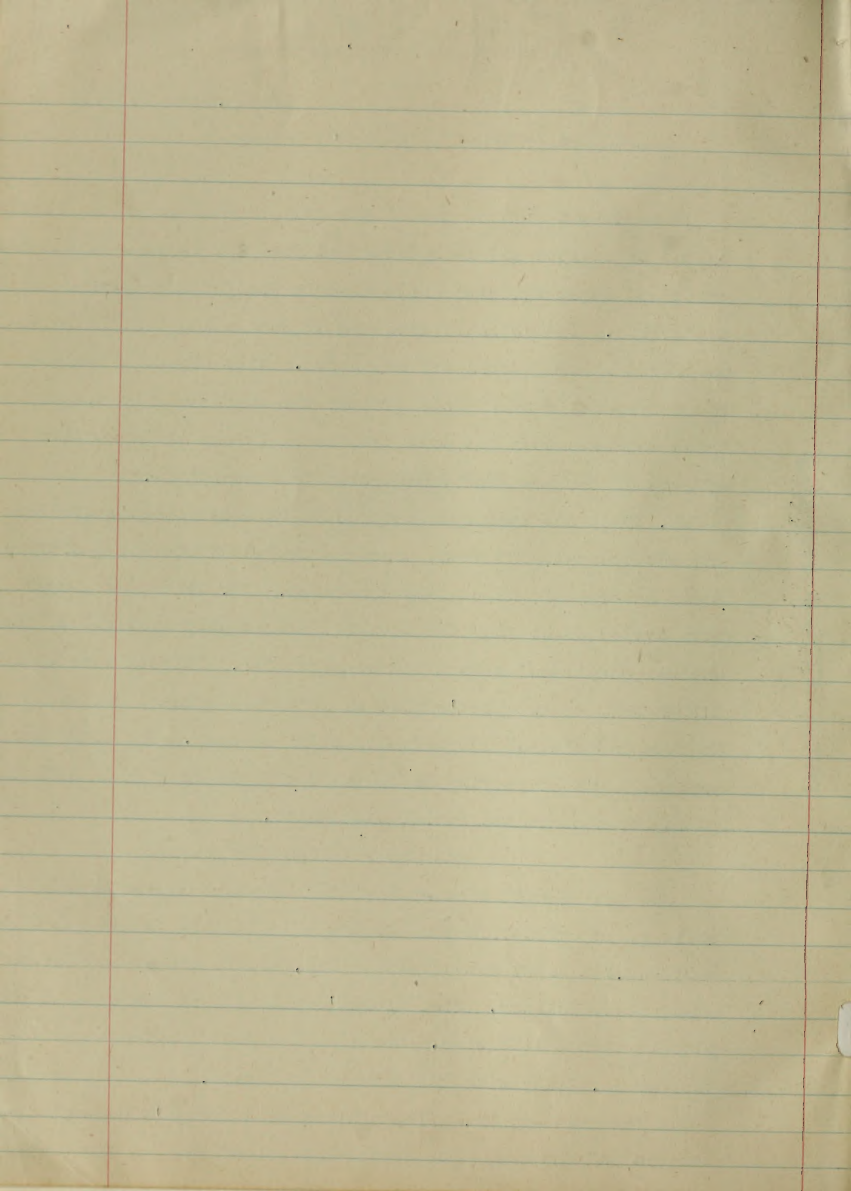
Miss Helene Hibben, one of the younger members of the local colony of artists and sculptors, has just finished a bronze bas relief of James Whitcomb Riley that is winning much praise for the artist. Its artistic merit is of such value that it is to be placed in the Herron Art institute. Miss Hibben attempted the difficult in making the cast of the half-round type, but those who have seen the work declare it is one of the better efforts of the group of younger American sculptors.

Mr. Riley has long been interested in Miss Hibben's studies and advancement, and when, recently she asked him for a sitting for a bas-relief, he readily consented. Mr. Riley has always been averse to sitting for artists, but he paid Miss Hibben the unusual compliment with a hearty good will. Twice a week Miss Hibben went to the poet's home in Lockerble street, and while he read and chatted she made her model of clay. She found her subject a man of varying moods and found pleasure in an effort to depict them in his facial expression.

His Story Telling Expression

She has wrought a bas-relief that shows the poet almost smiling, an expression that always precedes his suggestion of a story—every a happy moment with Riley, who is one of the foremost among story tellers. Miss Hibben's cast of the features of the poet is almost life size. She also has made a splendid miniature of Mr. Riley with the face in full cast.

A few days ago Mr. Riley visited Miss Hibben's home at Irvington and there saw the bronze bas-relief for the first time.



A smile of pleasure stole over his face as he looked at it and he remarked in his own way:

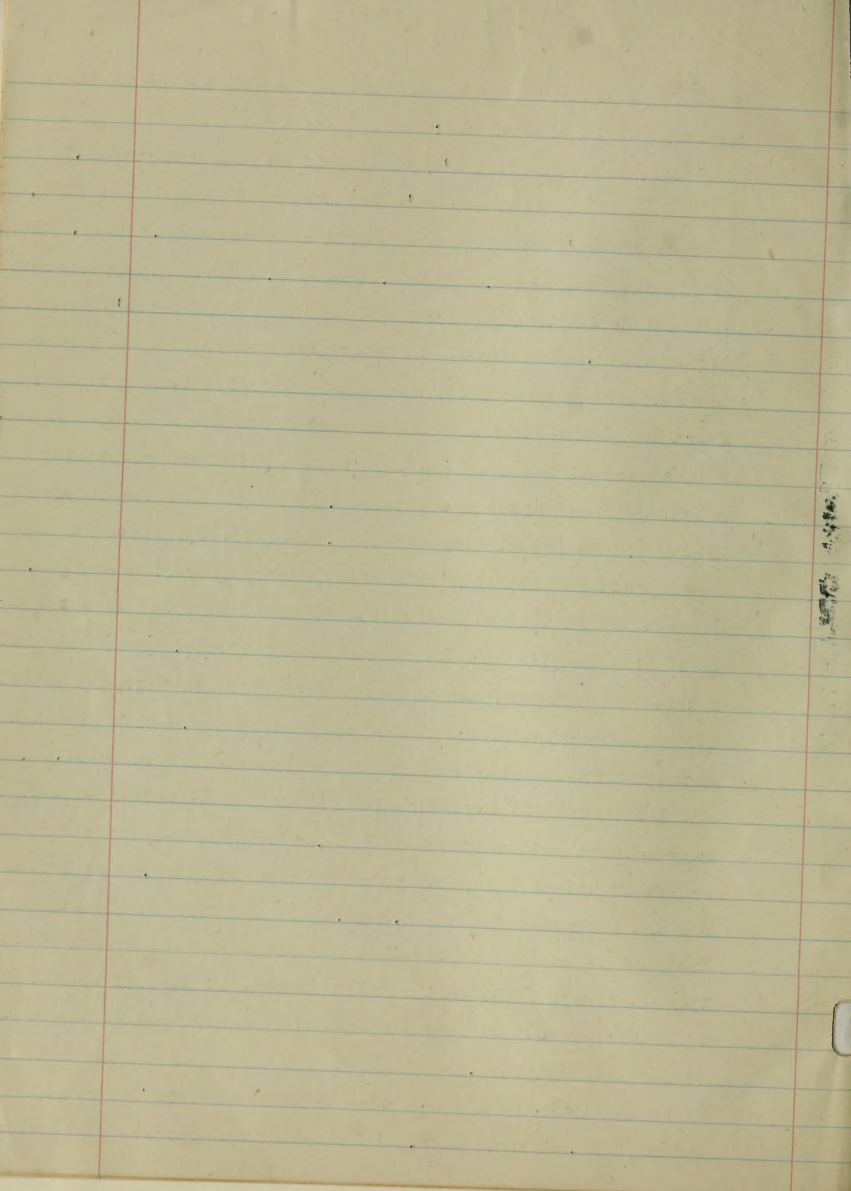
"Well, now, that doesn't even begin to look cadaverous."

Miss Hibben's Workshop

Miss Hibben's working environment interested Mr. Riley. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Hibben, whose home at 5433 University avenue, Irvington, is one of the city's fairest garden spots. The house, a large brick structure of a type of architecture popular fifty years ago, occupies large grounds, where every old-fashioned flower that grows has a welcome place. At the rear of the spacious park is a small frame house over which roses and vines are entwined. In this small house Miss Hibben has an interesting workshop. For several years she has found pleasant diversion in making pottery of varied designs. Her success in that direction led to her engagement as a teacher of clay modeling at the Herron Art institute. There she has a class of children, and enjoys every minute she devoted to the their instruction in the art of making pottery. Miss Hibben has much pottery that has won honorable place in art exhibits.

The talent displayed by Miss Hibben has attracted to her many artists and sculptors of note. Her work has won the praise of Laredo Taft, the noted Chicago sculptor. For a time she was a student under him. Mr. Taft has visited the Hibben home and is anxious to see Miss Hibben go forward in sculpture. William Forsyth, the Indianapolis artist, is another friend who is anxious to see her attain a noteworthy position in the world of art and sculpture.

"Miss Hibben is a young woman with a wonderful degree of talent," Mr. Forsyth says. "Her ability to produce expression



is of a character found in few matured artists and I predict for her a high place in the art world if she continues to progress in the next few years as she has done in the past."

Working on Marshall Miniature

Mr. Forsyth was delighted with the result Miss Hibben obtained in the Riley bas-relief, for in attempting to make a half-round cast of the poet's head she tried for a result in modeling that baffles many finished sculptors.

Mr. Riley expresses genuine gratification over the results of his sitting for Miss Hibben.

"It was a pleasure to sit for her," he said, "for she worked so easily, and with such little demand on the not too great patience of her subject. I like the work she has done, and hope she found as much pleasure in doing it as I did in being her subject."

Miss Hibben is working on a miniature bas-relief of Everett Marshall and it promises to be as much of a success as that of her preceding subject.



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